

PLANTERS' CHOICE, LCC  
140 Huntingtown Rd.  
Newtown, Connecticut 06470

496 Bunker Hill Rd.  
Watertown, Connecticut 06795

- Our nursery generates as much as \$500,000 in tax revenue to the State of Connecticut in nursery stock sales.
- Our nursery keeps 260 acres of land out of the hands of developers.
- We employ up to 65 people nine months of the year.
- We need help to continue competing with other states.

Farming is a labor of love. We grow crops so the nonfarm community can enjoy locally grown products in their every day lives. An uncertain economy hurts everyone, but the farmer is especially hit hard because our profit margins are much lower than other businesses and Mother Nature has a mind of her own.

The sales tax and fuel tax exemptions were originally enacted to keep agriculture viable in the State of Connecticut. The legislature allocated money for farmland preservation to help the farmer. If the sales and fuel tax incentive is repealed, it will put a huge strain on all phases of farming. More than likely more land will go up for sale because of this increased expense. Unfortunately farming is just a small part of the Connecticut economy. Our "factory" is the land. Once the land goes up for sale the state will not only lose its "roots", but it will also lose so much that it has been fighting for...the preservation of land, farming and a way of life.

I own Planters' Choice, LLC, a wholesale growing operation with land in Fairfield and Litchfield counties. I farm on 260 acres growing evergreens, deciduous trees, shrubs and perennials including a large amount of native plants and plants to stabilize wet areas.

We depend on tax incentives that allow us to compete with other states that have lower production costs. The nursery business is a GREEN BUSINESS by all descriptions. The shade trees and flowering trees are used for street trees and/or ornamental value. The evergreens are used for screening and noise abatement. The foundation plantings help to insulate houses for heat and cooling. Plus the factor of promoting clean air and beautification are important byproducts.

**Farming should be a part of the future in the State of Connecticut. To keep farming profitable the sales tax and fuel tax exemption must remain.**

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